

DEC 1 1971

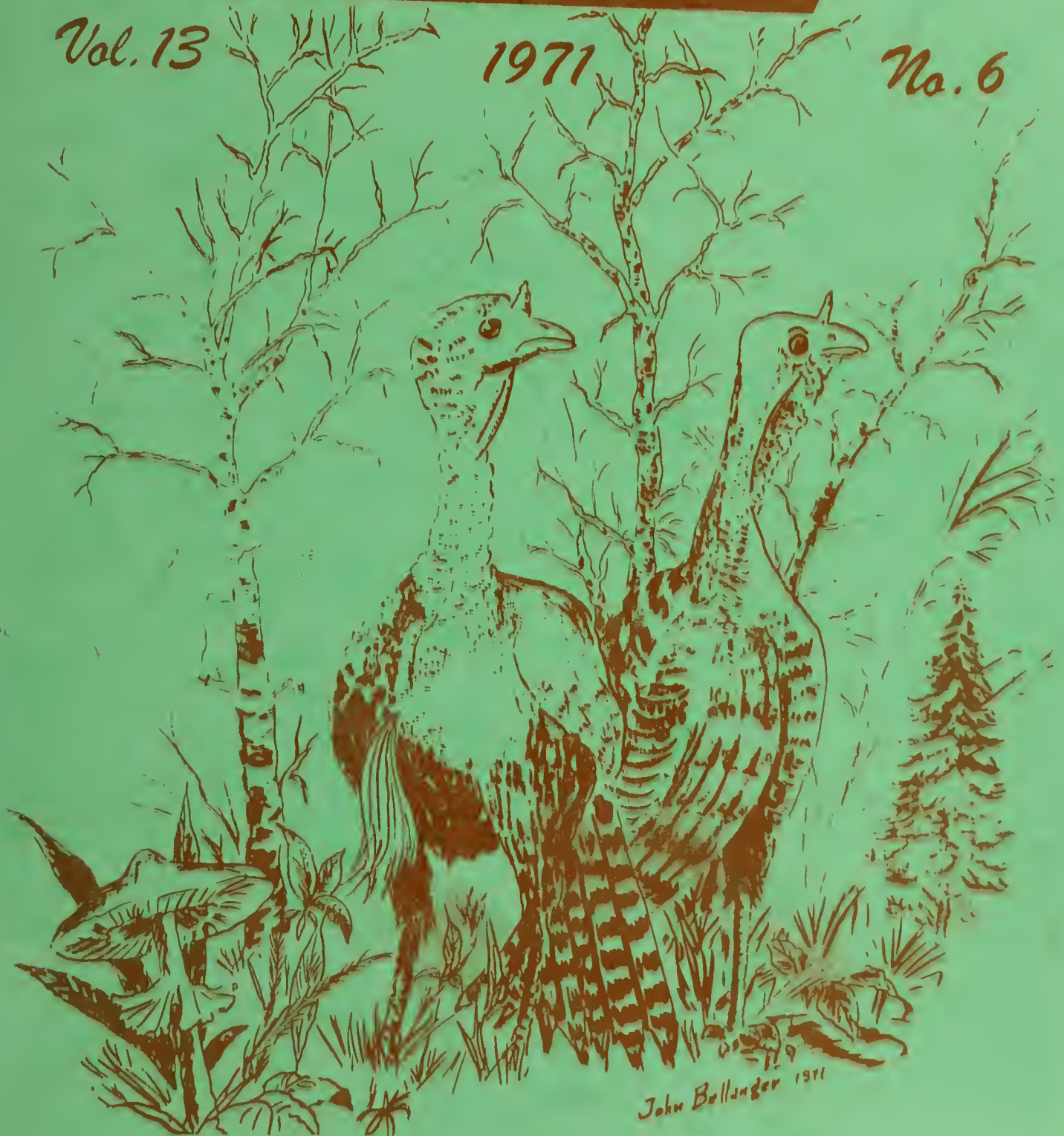
Nov.

M.P. News

Vol. 13

1971

No. 6



John Ballinger 1971

S
365
I 33m
Aug.-Nov.
1971
Aug.

GOVERNOR



FORREST H. ANDERSON

State Officials

ATTORNEY GENERAL Robert Woodahl
SECRETARY OF STATE Frank Murray
DIR. DEPT. of INSTITUTIONS Edwin Kellner

Board of Pardons

CHAIRMAN



J. Peterson

MEMBER



F. Hamilton

MEMBER



J. Glenn

DIRECTOR



B.C. Miles

Prison Administration

WARDEN



W.J. Estelle Jr.

Dep. WARDEN



J.G. Blodgett

E. Erickson

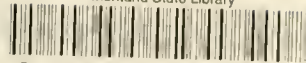


Business
Manager

J. Yankoskie



Director
Classification &
Treatment



3 0864 1005 1961 3

MP NEWS CONTENTS

Due to the heavy censorship exercised in the last issue of the M. P. News, many inmates at Montana State Prison have been slow to contribute articles and fiction to this issue and we have been forced to use many articles reprinted from other prison publications. A grateful thanks is extended to all the publications so used, and to the writers of the articles.

M. P. News
Sponsor

IN THIS ISSUE!

THIS LIFE

M.D.T.A.

POETRY

WISDOM

STUDENTS EXPERIENCE PRESSURES OF PRISON

PRISON INSPECTOR

ART

HUMOR

John Bollinger, M. P. News Artist, was sent to North Carolina, specifically to study wild turkeys in their natural habitat. This month's cover is the result of his trip.

The M. P. News is published monthly by the convicts of Montana State Prison at Deer Lodge, Montana, with the permission of the Warden, Prison Administration and the Board of Institutions. The purpose of this publication is to permit the convicts the opportunity for self expression; to provide a medium for discussion of their immediate and public problems; for the better understanding between convicts and the society; and lastly, to be, and tell it the way it is--constructively and informatively. The M. P. News does not, nor is it intended to reflect the view or opinions of the Board of Institutions or the Staff of the Montana State Prison.

Reprints permitted when the author and the M. P. News are properly credited.
ADDRESS: Editor, P. O. Box 7, Deer Lodge, Montana, 59722



BEFORE BRAGGING ABOUT HOW
OPEN MINDED YOU ARE, BE
SURE IT ISN'T JUST A HOLE
IN YOUR HEAD



AN EDITORIAL

From the Desk of the Editor:

Once again the M. P. News has a new editor and sponsor and is in complete turmoil as usual. Both the sponsor and myself are of the idea that communication is possible through the use of words. Through the use of some meaningful words, we hope to impart a view, a truthful view, to our readers.

I regret saying the M. P. News is late again, but it is and I extend a personal apology for the delay in its publication. Perhaps next month we can meet our publication date.

Don Lyles

THIS LIFE

A concern for themselves and others has brought together a group of men who identify with the words "THIS LIFE". Each letter represent a concept which they aspire to: T - truth, H - honesty, I - integrity, S - solidarity, L - love, F - integrity, F - freedom, E - energy. On the basis of these five words, and the concepts implicit in them, these men have accepted the following philosophy.

"Truth is that which we are all seeking. We shall follow this truth to whatever it shall take us. Faith perceives truth sooner than experience ever will. Honesty with ourselves and our peers will bring our people together and establish faith for us all. Our integrity will be complete in our race, religion, and communal living. Solidarity and our basic plan for trust and confidence is in the foundation of 'THIS LIFE'. Love for our brothers and sisters will overthrow the burden of pressure brought to bear by a society that has not yet recognized us as human beings capable of loving and feeling. Integrity is our tool that we will use everyday to effect our change and betterment on the outside as well as on the inside. We will seek physical freedom from our captors by freeing our minds and gaining control of our inner selves. We shall at last emerge and come into the light of being. Our love and devotion to each other and the dynamic of 'THIS LIFE' will give us the strength we need to find our brothers and sisters who are lost."

Every Wednesday evening the men of "THIS LIFE" come to gather in the hopes of attaining the goals set forth in their philosophy. Reaching these goals will be difficult but the whoever said personal growth would be easy. Membership in

the group started at fifteen and as of Nov. 21, 1971, approximately two months after its first meeting, twenty-nine men were in attendance. Something must be going on in a group that can almost double its attendance in two months. But what is going on? Each member is contributing and gaining from it in his own way.

There are only two rules to follow in "THIS LIFE": (1) no physical violence and (2) no person will come to meetings under the influence of any drug, chemical, or alcohol. These rules were established and accepted by the men themselves, as is everything in "THIS LIFE". Up to the present time the group has not found it necessary to increase the number of rules in "THIS LIFE" to which all members must abide by. In the dynamic of the group a member learns how to express himself other than through physical violence and the use of drugs.

Responsibility for "THIS LIFE" comes from the men who make it so. They are responsible for membership, its philosophy, its successes and failures. The men decide whether or not new people can come in, they decide if people from the streets should be allowed to attend. In a very real sense, they decide every week what direction the group will take that week and in the future.

A typical meeting involves all members discussing general topics. After this, the group is split into two or three smaller groups for more intensive personal work. At times the smaller sessions are heated and filled with confrontations between members. At other times, the mood is lighter; but again the group decides the direction if it will take. No one tells the men what they "should" or "should not" do. If they are ready to confront, they confront, if they want to play, they play. But the important thing to keep in mind is that they decide.

THIS LIFE — CONT'D.

circumstances are trying to implement. "THIS LIFE" asks the person to go beyond the shell he has comfortably lived in for years. It asks that you take risks that you never thought you could take. It asks you to both think and feel. "THIS LIFE" asks a lot of a person, but then who said personal growth was easy?

Tom Zentner
Psychology Department
University of Montana

-O-

PRISON GUARDS TO BECOME "CORRECTION SPECIALISTS"

Soon Michigan state prisons will no longer have uniformed guards in the cellblocks. Instead, "correction specialists" will serve as counselors, as well as guards. A plan to train 300 specialists within two or three years was revealed by Correction Department Director Gus Harrison. The first group should be ready by next spring.

This program grew out of an experiment at the Michigan Corrections Clinic of Southern Michigan Prison (SMP). In the Top 6 Project, so called because of its cellblock location --- 19 corrections specialists worked with inmate-patients from several state prisons.

Dr. Fred Pestesky, head of the Top 6 Project, explains its success in terms of better relations between officers and prisoners: "The inmate-patients used to refer to officers as 'screws or cops' ... and there was a lot of tension between the officers and prisoners. Now in the clinic the specialists are usually seen by the patients as fair, tolerant people who are concerned about them, rather than just trying to keep

them at a distance." The specialists often call the inmates by their first names. The inmates feel that they are treated as individuals, and they no longer think of themselves as part of a cops and robbers game.

The Top 6 Project has been so successful that the same methods will soon be used throughout the state prison system. SMP Warden Perry M. Johnson outlined the plans for the new program. A team of four or five "corrections specialists" will work with each cellblock. The head of the team will have a college degree in corrections psychology or social work, and other members will be urged to take college courses. Johnson expects that all positions will be filled by men who are now working as officers and guards. Those who apply will take a civil service exam and all officers accepted for the new program will get special training.

Dr. Pesetsky says that in the future former inmates may also be trained for these jobs. Many have already asked to apply. "The very fact they want the job," says Dr. Pesetsky, "seems to indicate something must be working right."

-O-

From The Challenge Howard, Rhode Island

REMEMBER: "What you see is what you

GET!"

So keep this in mind when asked to contribute to the next issue of the Montana Prison News. It is our sincere desire to obtain a much wider cross-section of the talents and opinions of the general population.

Michael F. Helm was recently sentenced to ten years in Montana State Prison for possession of dangerous drugs. He gave the M.P. News permission to use the following letter for a follow-up on the previous article about the need for drug rehabilitation in Montana.

JUNE 16, 1971

Mr. James Estelle, Warden
Montana State Prison
Deer Lodge, Montana 59722

Re: Michael Francis Helm

Dear Warden:

The above entitled defendant pleaded guilty to the possession of dangerous drugs, a felony, along with conviction of a prior felony. He was sentenced today to the term of ten years at the Montana State Prison, with credit for 141 days incarceration period.

He was originally charged with sale as well as possession, and following his plea to possession, his counsel was apprehensive about the defendant's need for psychiatric evaluation. He was first evaluated by a clinical psychologist here in Kalispell and on the basis of her report, was sent to Warm Springs State Hospital. The evaluation from the State Hospital indicated that the defendant was not suffering from any mental disease or defect that excludes responsibility, but did indicate that he has great drug dependence on any one of a number of drugs, ie., he genuinely does have a drug problem. I am enclosing a copy of the report from Warm Springs with this letter.

I want you to know this for whatever assistance it may be in the treatment of this prisoner, and in the event that it becomes possible to transfer him to an institution, out of state, better equipped for treating persons suffering from drugs dependency, I want to give my whole hearted recommendation in favor of such a transfer.

A maximum sentence was imposed, not for punishment but for a prolonged period of supervision when the defendant is paroled.

Sincerely yours,

Robert S. Keller

The defendant named in this case will probably never receive any help from within this state unless interest is stimulated among you people. Genuine interest. We want to help ourselves but we are unable to do so without your help..... the public's help. Great Falls, Billings, Missoula, Bozeman, Havre, Livingston, Hamilton, Red Lodge, Deer Lodge all have people residing there that have some type of drug dependence, who may only be helped by a comprehensive therapy program.

The Judges are even ignorant of the fact that there is no drug program. This letter is evidence of that fact. Also there are no out of state programs that will accept anyone from this state for the purpose of rehabilitation. Judge Keller investigated the possibilities for Mike's rehabilitation and found there to be none what-so-ever. The Judge stated that the reason for Mike's lengthy sentence was so that he could have supervision over a long period of time in hopes that Mike may receive some type of assistance with his drug problem. The Judge assumed (this I am assuming) that there was some kind of help to be had here at the prison. There is NONE.

Mike Helm is not the only person who is in a predicament such as this. More and more people are coming to prison for drug offenses, and the Judges do not understand or are not cognizant of the fact that sending drug offenders to prison is in no way a form of help to the individual in rectifying the psychological need for some type of drug.

S. R. Heckman

NEW U.S. DRUG LAW MAY 1

A new law goes into effect Saturday, making the possession of marijuana a federal as well as a state offense.

U.S. Attorney Stan Pitkin said yesterday a conviction on possession of "pot" as a first offense will be treated as a misdemeanor.

Subsequent convictions will carry stiffer penalties.

Under the new Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act, illegal exportation of narcotics and dangerous drugs from out of the United States also will be a federal offense.

Pitkin said federal regulation of the lawful manufacture and sale of drugs by licenced persons will be expanded to keep a tighter control on transmission of drugs within the U.S.

This report is from an article dating back to the last week of April_____ED.

-0-

Since the Mike Helm article was written, a drug therapy program has been started at this prison. It has the support of the Warden and Deputy Warden and is run by professionals from the University of Montana.

Mike Helm == This Life

INMATES
this is your magazine
PLEASE
USE IT.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011 with funding from
Montana State Library

HIRE
A
PAROLEE
it's good
BUSINESS

A. D. M. S. T. A. PROJECT

Early in 1971 the manpower Development Training Act and Voc Rehab found their way into The Montana State Prison where there is a great need for such programs. Now, for the first time in the history of the prison, inmates are being trained in a limited choice of vocations. An average of one out of six inmates of this institution are enrolled in this program in the three areas of training: cooking & baking, meat cutting, and auto repair. All are thirty week courses that may be extended to forty-eight weeks after the first of the year. An incentive factor is a token wage the students receive plus tools of the trade: ten dollar a week for the first ten weeks fifteen dollars per for the second ten weeks, and twenty dollars for the third ten week period. This four hundred and fifty

for sixty-seven dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50 a week), is placed in a local bank until the inmate leaves the institution.

The training period, as a general rule is scheduled to end near the time the subject is due to appear before the parole board or is to discharge his sentence. Prior to his release each inmate talks with the M. D. T. A. counselor that has helped in setting up either employment or further schooling as part of the follow-up program. At this time the inmate is informed of the help and services that are available to him after he is out of prison on his own.

The program has been well received by most inmates and the majority of the staff and is slowly gaining the trust of the citizens of Deer Lodge. Many

wrinkles remain to be ironed out and mistakes will continue until we learn, on both sides of the fence, to accept and use the program to its fullest advantage.

It is certain that we all have personal and varied opinions and I can relate only those that I feel. Some might agree, most will not. As a six-time felony loser who has already served what constitutes a life sentence and one who has never



cared much about improving himself, except to learn more about stealing, I felt justified in looking into the auto repair part of the program. As is the rule of the average long term inmate, I was full of the usual suspicions that most self-improvement programs deserve, however, in fourteen weeks, in the school i have found nothing that warrants comment.

To be fair, we should acknowledge the fact that often we are our own worst enemies. Sometimes this is the reason for the loss of some programs that held a degree of hope. This fact is one that must be accepted by any agency that undertakes a betterment program in a prison of this kind. Some are going to use this program as a means to an end other than the one that is intended and the sooner all concerned realizethis fact, the quicker we can get on the ones that are in there to learn something. Also, if MDTA and other related programmers are laboring under the misapprehension that they are turning a bunch of convicts into angels, they might just as well throw in the towel right now, because men who have lived in the highly structured maximum security environment of the average penal system are not about to change much in many cases. True, he



prison and stay out and if he can find the right niche in society he will do that. This program is a big help in that direction. It can spend ten thousand dollars on a sincere inmate, put him out on a job, and have him land in jail in a week if he lands in the wrong spot. So, maximum follow-up efforts are important to insure success.

The culinary school has two units -- one inside the walls and the other at Rothe Hall. The meat cutting school is located just south of Rothe Hall



and the auto repair school just east of the hall a short way. I don't have much info about the other schools other than the subjects being taught. There are nine men in the V.C. (Vehicle Maintenance Class) and the elements of maintenance stressed are tune-up, alignment, and brakes. Theory is taught in classroom instruction.



although the instructors have had to learn to take a little ribbing from their charges on subjects too tainted to mention here!

The money spent for rehabilitation is money well spent. It cannot help but accomplish some good. A big factor to be considered is the fact that if you offer help to an inmate he just might not be too receptive at first and maybe never will be but he will know in his own mind that someone is trying to help him. This will not solve his problem but it will help to assuage the bitterness that has placed him beyond human reclamation and that in itself is something gained.



There are two instructors for the nine students in this class and although their names are Larry & Bill they are generally referred to as our fearless leaders. Both are young men and not very con-wise or street-wise but they seem to know their subject and are sincere in their efforts to drill some little bit of knowledge into our heads. Rapport is good.



A CLOSER LOOK AT M.D.T.A.

In looking at the M.D.T.A. program in general (culinary arts, meat processing and mechanics) I wonder where the other programs are that could be taught as well. Falling into this category are such trades as welding, printing machine shop, sheet metal, drafting, etc.

When I asked the M.D.T.A. directors what expansions might be expected in the future (particularly, what other skills) their answer was, "No expansions expected at present." If the prison administrators and the M.D.T.A. directors truly wish to help a man toward achieving proficiency in a skill in order to aid his rehabilitation they must start planning an expansion program now. The M.D.T.A. and vocational trade programs of some other prisons are worthy models. The present program is fairly good but there is certainly room for improvement. An inmate inside the walls is restricted to the culinary arts program as this is all that is offered within the confines of the main prison. Those fortunate enough to obtain minimum custody have only two additional programs open to them, meat cutting and mechanics.

In taking a specific look at the M.D.T.A. training program in the area of mechanics I find that it has been offered at this institution for ten months and is instructed by Lawrence Hart and William Rafferty. Both of these capable men hold B.S. degrees in Vocational Education (auto mechanics) from Northern Montana College. The basics of such an education consist of a general mechanics course with emphasis placed on service, repair, tune-up, brakes, and wheel alignment. Farm equipment maintenance formerly a part of the M.D.T.A. program has since been phased out. Today, both are taught as one in some respects because vehicles of both categories are used as training aids.

Actual training consists of a combination of classroom demonstrations as well as practical application in the shop on the fleet of V.M.C. vehicles. The work needed to keep the fleet in operation is a training aid which also fulfills the service portion of the program.

Although the individual programs within the operation are 90% funded by the federal government for a certain number of weeks per training session it has become apparent through researching the varied backgrounds of the individuals enrolled in past classes that the same number of weeks for each student is not the answer. The directors and staff prefer to look at the trainee in regard to how he fits in terms of employment readiness. They are hopeful that certain behavioral changes in attitudes will take place during the individual's period of instruction in VMC which will help provide conscientious and qualified mechanics who will be an asset to any employer as well as to themselves. In other words, a major goal of the M.D.T.A. staff is to help each individual develop self-confidence and pride which are necessary personal tools upon release.

Upon completion of the course but prior to the trainee's release on parole the entire M.D.T.A. staff is committed to involvement in placing each man in a job well suited to him in terms of training and temperament. However, all of the jobs are processed through the State Employment Service. Trainees are placed wherever suitable jobs are available (preferably in Montana) so that the post-release supportive service can be more effective. M.D.T.A. attempts to place each man in the best paying position possible as well as the one in which he will be most satisfied. Since all jobs vary there are no set salaries but with the proper attitude and

the desire for financial stability
the opportunity for advancement is
almost always present.

It is the assertion of the assistant director that after placement the entire M.D.T.A. staff is as close as the nearest telephone. Three post-release counselors are stationed in the field and maintain continuous contact with the individuals in their respective areas. Their services are available around the clock should a problem be one of great magnitude and they sincerely hope that a man will seek their assistance and advice in lieu of taking an impulsive and, perhaps, regrettable action. So far the post-release counselors appear to be doing an excellent job as evidenced by the fact that not one of the trainees released has been returned to M.S.P.

Aside from the practical knowledge acquired there are other advantages assured by participating in this program. In most cases a man who has completed the course may realistically expect a parole upon his next appearance before the Parole Board. The trainee is paid while he learns therefore providing him with extra funds to help him become established upon his release into the free world.

Martti Ruona

MDTA PROJECT IN JEOPARDY

Warden Estelle said on November 10th that the MDTA program at MSP is in jeopardy due to a lack of funds. We would hate to see this program discontinued because the MDTA has done a fine job. It is our sincere belief that vocational training of the type provided by MDTA is invaluable in helping the inmate make it on the streets.

Many inmates have no trade that will pay good money and rather than face the prospect of taking a job that does not pay enough to support a family decently (even if such a job is available) he breaks the law and winds up back in prison. It is a vicious cycle that can be broken with effort and one way is for a man to be trained for a job that pays three to five dollars an hour. If he is making a good living the chances are good that the hurdle of readjustment can be jumped. Since he would no longer be condemned to a future of minimum wage drudgery the temptation to make a fast buck would be less.

No one would seriously argue that a major source of crime is not poverty. The MDTA project is dealing effectively with this aspect of recidivism. It would be a grave mistake if the program were discontinued. MDTA's record of success at MSP has been phenomenal. JB

FREE!! FREE!! GREETING CARDS FOR EVERY OCCASION ARE AVAILABLE FREE!! FREE!!

Seasonal, Get Well, Birthday, Anniversary, Sympathy, Etc.
Mother, Father, Brother, Sister, Son, Daughter, Nephew, Niece, Etc.

CONTACT: MIKE HELM = CELL #29 (Chaplain's Clerk)
OR
JIM PLAGE = CELL #11 (Education Clerk)

YOU WILL GET THE CARD YOU NEED WHEN YOU NEED IT!!!

students experience pressures of prison

Students in the "Urban Organization" seminar offered by the Black Studies Program conducted an experiment at Fort Missoula.

The purpose of the experiment was to sensitize the participants, on a small scale, to what others have suffered to broaden their understanding of the psychological pressures others may undergo and to be aware of what this type of experience does to the self, Richard Smith program director said.

The experiment was held in a stockade used to house prisoners of war during World War II and is now used for storage.

The stockade has no heat, water, lights, or sanitation facilities. The students were told by Smith that they could take all the clothes they could wear, one candle, one book of matches, and study materials.

Each student who participated in the experiment was assigned to a cell. The main door of the stockade was locked but cell doors were left open. Participants were free to leave at any time but had to ask to be let

out of the building.

Free access was allowed, Smith said, because the experiment was not a survival lesson but an experience to sensitize each person to his own limitations and weaknesses.

"It is only by knowing one's own weakness that one can become sensitive to and aware of the needs of others," Smith said.

The experiment began at 3 p.m. Friday and was to end at 12:01 a.m. Monday. No one stayed until the deadline. The first person left the experiment Saturday morning and the last three persons left Sunday afternoon.

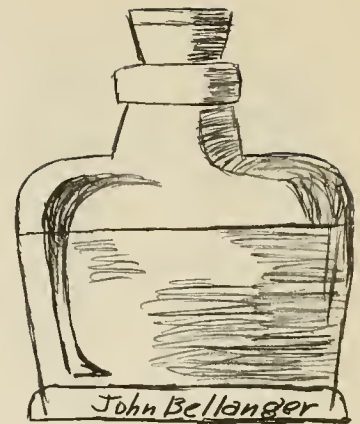
"The experiment was a success in that it brought the members of the class together so they could relate to, support, and challenge each other," Smith said.

The experiment "created changes in our own ideologies," he added.

Montana Kaimin, University of Montana
Oct. 20, 1971

Well...

That's a Deep
Subject...



This out of all will remain---
They have lived and have tossed:
So much of the game will be gain,
Though the gold of the dice has been lost.
Jack London

One can judge the civilization of a society by the condition of its prisons.
Dostoevsky

The bitterest tragic element in life to be derived from an intellectual source
is the belief in a brute Fate or Destiny.
Emerson

The life which is unexamined is not worth living.
Socrates

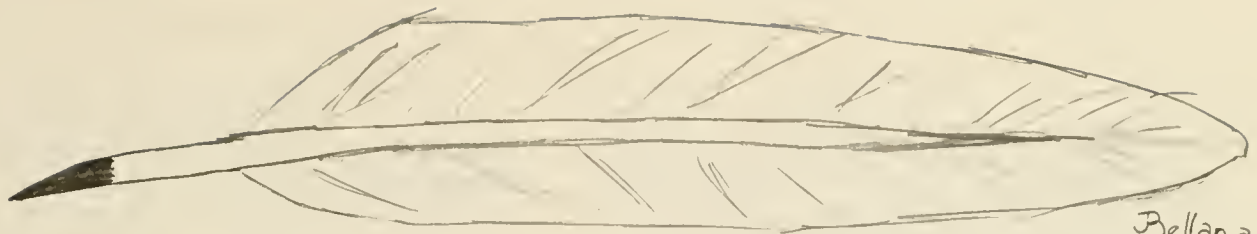
The good of the people is the chief law.
Cicero

Boldness is a mask for fear, however great.
Lucan

As if you could kill time without injuring eternity.
Thoreau

Life without industry is guilt, industry without art is brutality.
Ruskin

The streets of our country are in turmoil. The universities are filled with
students rebelling and rioting. Communists are seeking to destroy our country.
Russia is threatening us with her might and the republic is in danger. Yes,
danger from within and danger from without. We need law and order, our nation
cannot survive. Elect us and we shall restore law and order.
Adolph Hitler--Hamburg, 1932



Bellanger

Practical politics consists in ignoring facts

Henry Adams

An ambassador is an honest man sent to lie abroad for the good of his country.

Henry Wotton

Why don't you get a haircut; you look like a chrysanthemum.

Peiham Grenville Wodehouse

There are times when art attains almost to the dignity of manual labor.

Oscar Wilde

Damn all expurgated books; the dirtiest book of all is the expurgated book.

Walt Whitman

Be good and you will be lonesome.

Be virtuous and you will be eccentric.

Mark Twain

The man who gets on best with women is the one who knows best how to get on without them.

Pierre Charles Baudelaire

There are no ugly women, there are only women who do not know how to look pretty.

Jean de la Bruyère

If the world despises a hypocrite, what must they think of him in heaven?

Henry Wheeler Shaw

KNICK KNACK

Knick Knack

the little orange kitten we kidnapped on Halloween
grew surly on my grass and cold potato soup
in my U. District basement pad

where Mary Meth occasionally bathed in
the kitchen sink

With mousedead eyes and porcelain teeth

she would nip at my soul

with purrs of love

until with hepatitis I was hospital
imprison
ed

and a wealthy

catless
little lady

took her in

now

she hides furtive-eyed under a plump
patchwork quilted bed
in Lake Forest Park

burping filleted salmon
with fear

lest I spirit her away to that awful hovel

she once thought was home

.....1/5/69 Luckenbach

HYPNOSIS SUGGESTED AS SAFE 'TRIP'

From The Chico Gazette
Philadelphia- (AP)

A national authority on hypnosis says self-hypnosis is a useful tool for breaking the habit of hallucinogenic drugs such as LSD.

Dr. Ernest Hilgard, a Stanford University psychologist, said Friday some college students have given up drugs in favor of self-hypnosis because they can produce the same mental trips and control the process.

The hypnotic trip can be stopped at will and has no chemical side effect, Hilgard said.

Dr. Hilgard said if confronted with a drug user who was unable to stop using LSD or marijuana, he would teach him to substitute self-hypnosis for the drugs.

He recommended parents try to get such help for children who use drugs. He said self-hypnosis can be quickly learned.

Some college students have given up drugs without losing their desire to take the dream-like, hallucinogenic trips, Hilgard said.

-0-

"I do not agree
that a
felony conviction
makes a
man unfit to
practice law.

We must look
into the circumstances
of each conviction
before turning
down an
applicant."

Louis H. Pollack
Dean, Yale Law School

R. H. MDTA PROJECT --- CONT'D.

Recent prison riots have convinced the public of the need for penal reform, and this prison is no exception. It is a total failure and should be removed to the last stone and started all over again, based on a Diagnostic Center concept with training programs such as M.D.T.A., that give an inmate a chance to earn some money while incarcerated, leaves, for those deserving them, and most of all, the follow-up to help a man stay out instead of trying to find a way to throw him back in.

The old Stillwater Prison in Stillwater, Minnesota used to have this inscription in bold letters on the archway over the front door and you read before entering-"To All Who Enter * Leave All Hopes Behind." After the new Minnesota State Prison was built a few miles down the road the sign was taken down but there was no difference in the prison policy. When I entered the prison with a twenty-five year sentence the only thing awaiting an inmate was lots of hard work, poor food & clothing, and harsh punishment if you did not come to heel. Two years in isolation where an inmate never saw the sun, stars, or moon. Leaving your cell once a week for a bath wasn't unusual. I was one of the inmates housed in that unit

Continued on page 18

FEDERAL JAIL INSPECTOR SPEAKS TO STAFF AT MONTANA STATE PRISON

At 9 a.m., Nov. 9, 1971 Mr. James H. Allen, a federal jail inspector, spoke to members of the staff at Montana State Prison. A few of the points he covered were these:

- 1) Western jails are 50% better and more efficient than southern jails.
- 2) In 25 years of dealing with inmate complaints, he has not once investigated one that was not exaggerated.
- 3) The news media and lawyers have no business inside the walls of a prison if there is a riot going on.
- 4) Steel companies sell as much steel as possible in the construction of new facilities - often times much more than is necessary. He cited one example of \$40,000 saved in the construction of a new 4 cell holding unit when their judgement was questioned.
- 5) Most correctional people are viewed as brutal and uncaring by the general public, while correctional officers who help inmates are seldom publicized.

The M. P. News would like to comment upon these points:

1) 50% better still leaves a long way to go.

2) Everybody tends to present his own case as favorably as possible.

3) News media do belong inside the walls during a riot.

Mr. Allen's objection to this was that again, the news media would be given a biased view of the situation. Granted inmates have their biases like everybody else. But there would be other biased views too. Most everyone has a bias toward his own partic-

ular view. So why expect the press to limit their coverage to only the biases of the administration? The whole concept of objectivity, which is basic to reporting should also be basic to penal reform.

4) Lawyers should be allowed inside the walls, riots or not. They are sometimes eloquent in advocating prison reforms, and first hand knowledge of and experience with prison conditions can only further the cause of penal reform.

5) It is to be expected that steel companies will sell as much steel as is possible, but advocating the purchase of almost twice as much as necessary seems a sad commentary on the state of ethics in big business.

6) It is true that correctional people are not viewed as rosy cheeked baby sitters by the general public because they are not. However, the public often deals in stereotypes and the child of stereotyping is misconception. Many correctional people who help inmates are now given credit, but then anybody who helps anybody seldom gets credit for it. Many people who help don't want public acknowledgement anyway, and those who do usually find a way to get it JB

-0-

R. H. MDTA PROJECT --- CONT'D.

because I wanted to get a job change in order to learn some kind of trade.

Being a student now in MDTA is a far cry from that stinking isolation cell and it would take an awful callous person to dispute which treatment is best for the inmate and the public, all things considered.

Jack Branch

KINDNESS GOES TO PRISON

Washington - The nation's prisons are moving away from the most severe forms of discipline and the sternest measures remaining are often imposed with increasing restraint.

Bread and water diets and long stints in tiny cages without clothing, lights, adequate ventilation, bedding, water, or toilet facilities are quietly disappearing from penal routines across the country.

Practically every institution retains some kind of jail-within-a-jail for the most disobedient inmates. Generally, however, there are not as many special restrictions as in the past, and confinements are much less extended.

The authorities are turning toward more sophisticated controls including discharges from preferred jobs, suspensions of visiting, recreational and other privileges, and forfeitures of earned "good behavior time".

"Penalties today do not begin to compare with those five or ten years ago," said one official, voicing an assessment common among observers inside and outside correctional facilities.

Substantial problems and abuses

abound in the prisons generally of course. There are regular reports of brutality by guards, homosexual attacks, random fights and stabbings, drug abuses, and many other difficulties.

The disciplinary process as a whole still includes a number of important, difficult and unsettled issues, such as prison regulations themselves, their enforcement, and administrative hearings that rule on alleged infractions.

Many Critics find major injustices in these areas. But official dissatisfaction with the automatic imposition of extremely discomforting punishments is relieving the most lurid and durable sore spots.

Inquires in many states suggest a number of reasons for this trend. Many administrators simply have accepted the view that the most crushing penalties are unnecessary as well as counter-productive.

THE AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION held in its official guidelines, published five years ago, that "the routine use of severe disciplinary measures usually served to embitter inmates rather than deter them.

At the same time, the milder

alternatives are found more meaningful and effective on their own. Ellis C. MacDougal a prominent penologist who became corrections director in Georgia this year, is experimenting with ordinary fines for prisoner infractions.

JUDICIAL orders, particularly in the federal district courts have outlawed some of the more trying punishments. A United States judge has assumed close watch over disciplinary practices in Rhode Island prisons for example.

Among the more brutal measures employed in some of the prisons in the past were: In North Carolina a decade or so ago men were thrown naked into solitary confinement cells where guards used high-pressure water hoses from time to time to knock them up against the wall."

-In Maryland, until recently, inmates were disciplined by receiving a meal only once every 72 hours, and in Pennsylvania, before a reform movement in 1953, prisoners were placed for days in dark, damp holds underground.

-In Arkansas five years ago men were whipped on their bare buttocks with rawhide straps (flogging was practiced in 26 prisons as recently as 1963) and had needles pushed under their fingernails.

The national trend is subject

to local variations, but it can be examined in fuller detail at a single prison. Many places display evidence of the change, and among them is the grim and hulking facility on the edge of downtown Columbus, Ohio.

The Ohio Penitentiary, opened in 1834, now holds more than 1,800 men. Its rather unpleasant history is marked here and there by spectacular disasters, such as a fire in 1920 that killed 320 inmates.

It is a maximum security institution with the usual stone wall-30 feet high-behind which the inmates march around in close formation with the guards perpetually questioning, searching counting and watching them."

In 1968, discontent and tension erupted in two major riots.

The facility, in fact, appears doomed.

The New York Times

THIS
SPACE
FOR RENT

NIGHT'S VISITATION

I saw you tripping softly through my dreams last night,
I reached to touch your golden body and your soft brown hair
And heard your soft sigh through the mist of awakening.
We sat and talked of things that mattered all night,
And we shared the love these long months had built,
My imprisonment, your waiting so long for me, Love.....
I told you I would be free and come to you , one day.
You said you would wait for me until the day I could.

We sat and shared the whole night through, laughing,
Loving as only we knew love to be. in love all night
We talked of God, but not like last time, Darling.....
Not how wrong I was, but how right you were.

Then, as we enjoyed each other, the dawn came
And you said you had to leave
As you floated softly out of sight, I called your name
But you didn't answer, only turning--- then going
And with my eyes still clouded with sleep, I wait
Until I sleep again, and until you come again
Tripping softly through the meadows of my dreams
To waken me with your love

DV



BOVINE-ISMS

(Ed 's Note: The following article is from the Northern Wyoming Daily News. It is a political parody in terms of two cows and what happens to them under the different political systems)

Capitalism-- If you have two cows, you sell one and buy a bull. Nature takes its course and your herd increases

Socialism-- If you have two cows, the government takes both and redistributes your share in the form of skimmed milk.

Communism-- If you have two cows, the government takes both and issues a manifesto declaring milk a capitalist beverage and unfit to drink.

Fascism-- YOU CAN T HAVE TWO COWS.

Liberalism-- If you have a cow and a bull, the government shoots the bull-- and milks the taxpayers

Idealism-- If you have two cows, you imagine that one is a bull-- and wait expectantly for a miracle to happen.

Rugged Individualism-- If you have two cows, you sell them to another rugged individualist at twice their value-- then curse the government because you must pay tax on the profit

Conservatism-- If you have two cows, you starve them until they give a pint a day-- then raise prices and call it efficiency (This last daffy-nition is an M. P. News original)

"PRISON HYPOCRISY IS. "

By: John Severnson Watson

San Quentin News

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... FUNCTIONING like a robot by doing EVERYTHING by bells, buzzers, and whistles for a number of years in prison... then being expected to function as a normal citizen in the outside world where crisis and decision making are daily occurrences.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... HAVING an extreme dislike for another convict of the same race who is inconsiderate, obnoxious, and self-centered... and being told you have a personality clash. But the dislike of someone of a different race for the same reasons makes you a racist, a bigot, and prejudiced.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... SOCIETY incarcerating a young good-looking felon in prison... and then have them express shock and moral outrage when the guy comes before Disciplinary Court for knifing one of the many "wolves" who were constantly making homosexual advances of him.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... CONVICTS blaming the prison staff for all their own failures in life.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... BEING dehumanized and warehoused in a lip-service atmosphere... and constantly reading in the newspapers and national publications about the tremendous advances made in prison rehabilitation.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... BEING told by the MAN he has nothing but contempt for an informer... and then watching him encourage every available man-in-blue to become a stool pigeon.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... OVERHEARING conversations between prison personnel about how they hate all convicts... and later watching some of them trying to cultivate a friendship with the prisoners.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... A many-time loser becoming self-righteous about the failures and incompetence of various public figures on the outside world.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... SPENDING unlimited sums of money to convict the defendant... and miniscule amounts to prepare him for his return to society.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... PRISON officials telling the public the parole violator rate has noticeably decreased because of better educated, more concerned, and better trained parole officers... when the real reasons are prison budget cuts and the public outcry about penal reform.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... RELEASING a convict from the ACI on parole or discharge to the outside world... and expecting him to become a positive functioning member of society.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... THE administration allowing the news media to go on a limited tour of the prison... and then a few days later reading an alleged in-depth, nine-part story of what it's like to be in prison.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... seeing the first-rate prison administrator appointed as Warden... and watching many of his efforts defeated by incompetent and uncaring subordinates.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... living in the most negative, unrealistic environment imaginable... and being expected to be a "model inmate" while here.

PRISON HYPOCRISY IS... being supervised and controlled 24 hours a day by guards who can't see any of the hypocrisy in a prison setting.

-0-

STONE WALLS, GREY WALLS

Stone walls, grey walls
Fleak, cold, desolate
Long hours, long days
 and weeks
 and months
 and years
Stone upon stone, this mortar of loss

Nostalgia sad memories
All I now possess
Stripped of human dignity
 and righteousness
 and all the rest

Lost time, wasted years
Meaningless
Because I know
(Deep down)
I could have been
 a better man

JFP & JPB

-0-

WE NEED SOME KIND OF FICTION
FROM THE INMATES.

M. P. NEWS STAFF

M.P. NEWS

DON VOYLES

STAFF

JOHN BELLANGER



*E
D
I
T
O
R*



*A
R
T
I
S
T*

JACK
BRANCH



R
O
T
H
E
C
O
R
R
E
S
P
O
N
D
E
N
T

L
U
C
K
Y
L
U
C
K
E
N
B
A
C
K



P
O
E
T

G
U
S
G
A
R
D
N
E
R



P
H
O
T
O
G
R
A
P
H
E
R

MP NEWS

Box 7

*Deer Lodge,
Mt. 59722*



*Montana State Library
Government Documents Section
Helena, Mont.*

59601